

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02030 01 OF 02 161725Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----046926 161729Z /40

O 161700Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6608

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 2030

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) STATE 038169, (B) STATE 034234

1. IN AFTERMATH OF PRESENTATION I MADE YESTERDAY TO BOTH GARBA AND BALEWA CONCERNING OUR STRONG PREFERENCE THAT PRESIDENT ARRIVE LAGOS EVENING OF MARCH 31 RATHER THAN MORNING OF APRIL 1, BALEWA INFORMED ME THIS AFTERNOON THAT FMG AGREED. PRESIDENT MIGHT STILL BE GREATED BY OBASANJO THAT NIGHT; FORMAL ARRIVAL CEREMONIES WOULD BE SAVED FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING. (COMMENT: THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY AT TOP LEVELS OF FMG CONCERNING EXACT TIMING OF BUDGET SPEECH RECORDING AND BROADCAST. WE ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO TIE THIS DOWN; THUS EXACT HOUR OF PREFERRED ARRIVAL TIME FRIDAY EVENING NOT YET POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE. UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO CLEAR THIS UP, SUGGEST FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THAT WE STICK WITH VICINITY OF 10:00 P.M.. WE MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE TO ADVANCE THAT TIMING BY AN HOUR OR SO IN THE EVENT WHITE HOUSE WISHES. BY THE SAME TOKEN, BELIEVE WE MIGHT SIMILARLY BE ABLE TO PUSH IT SOMEWHAT LATER IN EVENT DESIRED BY EITHER WHITE HOUSE OR FMG.)

2. BALEWA SAYS FMG INVITES OUR PROPOSALS FOR VISIT ACTIVITIES.
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 02030 01 OF 02 161725Z

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES, WE REVIEWED WITH BALEWA THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE IDEAS, TO WHICH HE POSED NO OBJECTIONS.

MARCH 31 - FRIDAY
ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT
PROCEED TO STATE HOUSE, MARINA

APRIL 1 - SATURDAY

9:00 OFFICIAL ARRIVAL CEREMONIES INCLUDING
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, BALEWA
SQUARE OR STATE HOUSE
10:15 DEPARTURE FOR DODAN BARRACKS
10:30 SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH OBASANJO
12:30 LEAVE DODAN BARRACKS
13:00 LUNCH (PRIVATE), STATE HOUSE
15:00 PUBLIC EVENT (E.G., ROAD CONSTRUCTION SITE
AMERICAN EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION)
17:30 SPEECH, STATE HOUSE
20:30 STATE DINNER, DODAN BARRACKS OR FEDERAL PALACE
HOTEL

APRIL 2 - SUNDAY

9:00 LEAVE FOR AIRPORT
9:30 DEPARTURE FOR KANO
10:30 ARRIVE KANO
11:00 CALL ON GOVERNOR
11:30 VISIT EMIR'S PALACE, CALL ON EMIR OF KANO
12:00 LUNCH
15:00 SEE PARAS 4 & 5
16:00 DEPART KANO
17:00 ARRIVE STATE HOUSE
FREE TIME

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 02030 01 OF 02 161725Z

APRIL 3 - MONDAY

OPTIONAL PUBLIC EVENT
AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEPARTURE
CEREMONIES
DEPART LAGOS FOR MONROVIA

3. IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED ABOVE, BALEWA PROPOSED
POSSIBLE MERIT OF VISIT APRIL 2 TO KADAWA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT
NEAR KANO AND MEETING WITH STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT BAYERO UNIVER-
SITY.

4. KADAWA PROJECT HAS BEEN SHOWN WITH PRIDE BY NIGERIANS TO

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02030 02 OF 02 161730Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----047036 161733Z /40

O 161700Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6609

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 2030

EXDIS

OTHER VISITING HEADS OF STATE. IT IS AN IRRIGATED, MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT INVOLVING INPUTS OF RESOURCES (CREDIT, IMPROVED SEEDS, FERTILIZER, ETC.) BY FMG FOR UTILIZATION BY "PLAIN-DIRT FARMERS". PROJECT IS IN SAHELIAN ZONE AND REPRESENTS ONE OF NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR SELF HELP EFFORTS TO MEET THE DROUGHT CHALLENGE. VISIT TO PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE PRESIDENT WITH EXPOSURE TO ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT SIMILAR TO THAT OF OTHER DROUGHT-AFFECTED WEST AFRICAN STATES WHERE MAJOR USAID PROGRAMS ARE IN OPERATION. MAJOR DRAWBACK OF INCLUDING THIS ITEM IN SCHEDULE IS 30-40 MINUTE DRIVE TO GET THERE FROM KANO. DRIVE ITSELF, HOWEVER, WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS INTO LANDSCAPE AND CULTURES OF NORTHERN NIGERIA SAHEL. ROAD IS EXCELLENT AND WOULD BE CLEARED OF ALL TRAFFIC. OBASANJO WOULD ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT.

5. BAYERO UNIVERSITY IS HISTORICALLY THE MAJOR TRAINING CENTER FOR VIRTUALLY ALL MOSLEM JURISTS, LAWYERS, COURT-SCRIBES, ETC., THROUGHOUT THE NORTH OF NIGERIA. AT ONE TIME IT UTILIZED STRONG FACULTY INPUT FROM SUDAN AND MANY OF ITS PRESENT STAFF HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN SUDANESE UNIVERSITIES. FMG IS VERY KEEN ON POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT MIGHT CONSIDER ADDRESSING THE STUDENT BODY OR TALKING INFORMALLY WITH STUDENTS AND FACULTY. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR FMG'S INTEREST IS IMPORTANT ROLE THIS UNIVERSITY PLAYS IN THE TRADITIONAL NORTH. ANOTHER, ACCORDING TO BALEWA, IS THAT VISITING HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER DIGNITARIES HAVE
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 02030 02 OF 02 161730Z

REPEATEDLY VISITED "MAJOR" NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES IN LAGOS, IBADAN, ZARIA AND IFE TO THE ANNOYANCE OF THE "OTHERS".

6. BALEWA WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER MRS. CARTER WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT AND WHETHER SEPARATE SCHEDULES SHOULD BE PROPOSED. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS NO RPT NO SEPARATE SCHEDULE

FOR KANO BUT WILL SUGGEST TO DEPARTMENT SEPARATE ACTIVITY OPTIONS FOR LAGOS BY FORTHCOMING SEPTTEL.

7. DOES THE PRESIDENT INTEND, AS WAS THE CASE LAST NOVEMBER, TO MAKE AN "AFRICAN SPEECH" WHILE IN NIGERIA? IF SO, EMBASSY WILL WISH TO PROPOSE SITE ALTERNATIVES THAT TAKE ACCOUNT OF HIGHER TEMPERATURES THAN LAST FALL AND POSSIBILITY OF RAIN.

8. FROM FMG POINT OF VIEW STATE DINNER COULD BE HELD EITHER SATURDAY, APRIL 1, OR FOLLOWING RETURN TO LAGOS FROM KANO APRIL 2. EMBASSY BELIEVES APRIL 1 IS PREFERABLE WITH EVENING OF APRIL 2 LEFT CLEAR AS PROPOSED BY REF B, BUT WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO POSSIBILITY THAT ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH OBASANJO MIGHT BE SCHEDULED FOR SOME OF THAT EVENING'S FREE TIME. BALEWA SAID THERE WOULD BE NO TIME OR APPROPRIATE PLACE IN KANO FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. IN THE EVENT THE TWO HEADS OF STATE WISH TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN AFTER THE KANO TRIP, PERHAPS PRIVATELY, BEST TIME WOULD BE SUNDAY NIGHT. BALEWA SAID OBASANJO WOULD BE PLEASED TO COME TO STATE HOUSE MARINA FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS02030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-1263
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780248/aaaabofq.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f78047d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 38169, 78 STATE 34234
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3575047
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f78047d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014